

A Little History

Why We Need Identification...



Over the years, the success of cooperative federal/state animal disease programs has resulted in fewer individually identified animals.

Animal disease triggered the first USDA regulatory program in 1883. The program to eradicate bovine tuberculosis began in 1917, and when the Brucellosis Eradication Program began in the 1930s, the disease was widespread throughout U.S. livestock.

These programs, and others like them, depended on tests that were required to move animals interstate; those tests required individual animal identification.

In 1956 there were 124,000 brucellosis-affected herds found by testing. By 1992, the number had dropped to 700 herds, and in June 2000, there were only 6 known affected herds. Tuberculosis was nearly eliminated just over a decade ago. As the programs met with success, fewer producers thought it was necessary to identify and test their animals. That has resulted in re-emerging disease and a lack of traceability.

Brucellosis and tuberculosis incidents are returning. Since 2002 TB outbreaks in AZ, CA, MI, MN meant the destruction of more than 25,000 cattle, and in the past few years 15 states have had or now have TB-infected herds.

Premises/location and individual animal identification are a must to reverse this trend and approach the goal of eradication of these diseases.

Proposed Traceability Rule Timeline:



February 2010—US Secretary of Agriculture announced a new approach to animal disease traceability and appointed a committee of State, Tribal and Federal representatives tasked with providing input (traceability performance standards, protocols for evaluating tracing capability, and compliance factors) to a proposed traceability rule that will become part of the Code of Federal Regulations.

May through August 2010—Public meetings to discuss the new framework were held in Kansas City, Riverdale, Denver, Salt Lake City, Fort Worth, Madison, Atlanta, and Pasco, WA

September 2010—A 'Comprehensive Report and Implementation Plan' is provided to Congress

December 2010—Secretary Vilsack announces members of an Advisory Committee on Animal Health (will advise on animal disease traceability)

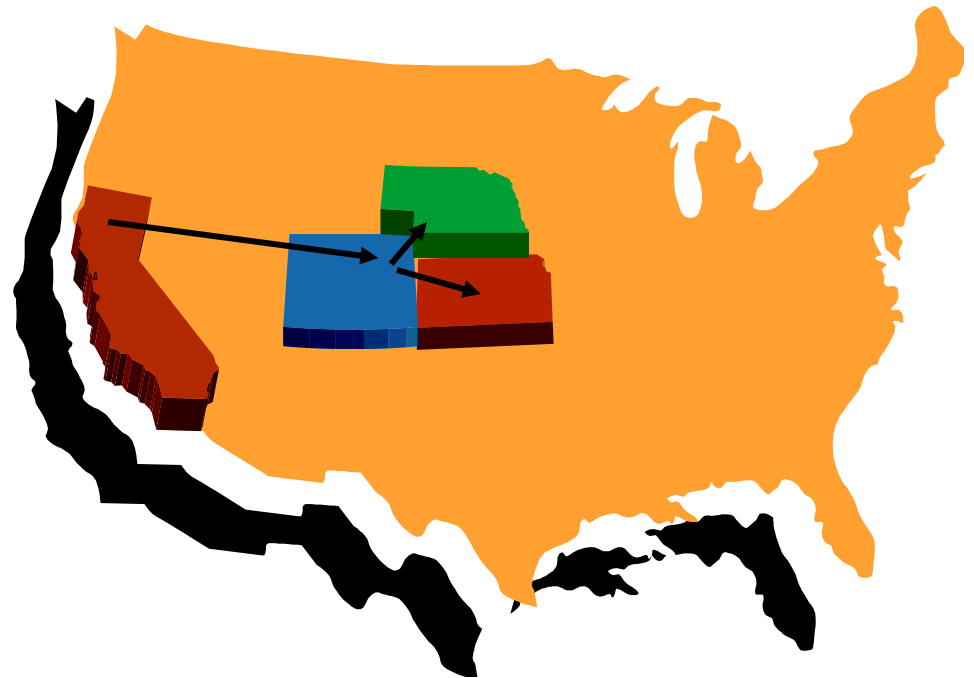
January 2011—Animal Disease Traceability Comprehensive Report & Update is released

August 2011—Notice of proposed rule published in Aug. 11 *Federal Register*; comments received on or before Dec. 9, 2011, were considered

Late 2012 or early 2013—Anticipated finalization of the Traceability Rule

Animal Disease Traceability System

Colorado Animal ID & Traceability



A new, flexible framework will improve animal disease traceability in the US

- Applies only to livestock moved interstate
- Administered by States & Tribes for more flexibility
- Encourages use of lower-cost ID technology
- Will be implemented transparently through Federal regulations and full rulemaking process

Animal Industry Division

www.colorado.gov/ag/animals



Possible Exemptions to Official Identification

- Cattle moved directly from one state through another state, and back to the original state
- Cattle moved directly to slaughter, including through one approved livestock facility (for example, an auction/market) with a USDA-approved back tag
- Cattle moved to a custom-slaughter facility in accordance with state or federal regulations for preparation of meat for personal consumption
- Cattle may be moved interstate between any two states/tribes with other identification methods (other than what is defined as official), as agreed upon by the animal health officials in those two states/tribes, including the flexibility to use brands
- Cattle may be moved interstate without any identification during transit, if destined to an approved tagging site (may be a market/auction barn) and identified before co-mingling with cattle from other premises

One Official Tag & Number

The regulations will specify types of official ID for each species that should be accepted by all states and tribes. However, USDA will allow livestock movements between two states or tribes with any form of ID agreed on by animal health officials in the two jurisdictions, including the flexibility to use brands.



Colorado is working on a protocol to enable accredited veterinarians to apply an orange 840 RFID tag in brucellosis vaccinated heifers. A combination orange tag that would include the 840 button and a visual to accommodate individual management practices is also being considered.



When the Final Rule is published...

Input from the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's Animal Health Advisory Committee during the phased-in process may result in some exemptions being removed.